

"Amateur Radio: Combining communication experience with modern digital techniques."

31 December, closing date for submission of
logs for the PEARS HF QSO Party
contest@pears.ham-radio-op.net

15 January - Hunting Lions in the Air - Eshowe
Lions Club

21 to 23 January, Port Elizabeth ARS National
VHF/UHF Contest

22 January, Summer QRP Sprint

26 January, SARL 80 m Club Contest, SSB



QSO365 - A QSO per day in 2011

In 2011, Keith, G6NHU, is embarking on an ambitious project to have a QSO every day of the year. QSOs can be on any band or any mode and Keith has declared that he is determined that he will have his first ever CW QSO during 2011 as he is in the process of learning Morse Code now.

There is a blog to follow the progress of this project at <http://www.qso365.co.uk>. The blog won't necessarily be updated every day but it will document how the project is going with updates every few days.

For further details and to follow this project throughout 2011, check out the blog at <http://www.qso365.co.uk>

I think I must support Keith in his project; I spend far too little time on the radio - it may be difficult, because I sometimes struggle to raise a soul on the repeaters as I drive to work or back home or visit other towns and cities!!!

More about Licence Fees

ICASA is aligning its licence period with its financial year which runs from April to March. Radio Amateurs will receive an account for R6,75 which will cover January to March. During March, an account for the period 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2012 will be mailed. Please pay the right amount on the account and wait for the account to arrive. Repeater and beacon accounts will be treated like wise and the amount charged will cover January - March 2011.

Monitoring Space Weather Now a Serious Business

For Lee-Anne McKinnell, ZS2LAW, acting Managing Director of HMO, the launch of the Space Weather Centre at the Hermanus Magnetic Observatory is a four-year dream come true. "It started with our application to be internationally recognised as the space weather warning centre for Africa. Although there are space weather scientists in other parts of our continent we are the only space weather warning centre," she told SARL News.

Delivering the opening address on 10 December 2010, the Minister of Science and Technology said that the launch of the Space Weather Centre speaks directly to South Africa's space science and technology 'grand challenge'. "This Centre will contribute essential information for global space science and technology, as well as forecasts and predictions to protect our growing and future satellite industry. More specifically, it will provide a service to the Earth observation, communications, navigation, defence and engineering sectors."



The Space Weather Centre will contribute towards other grand challenges, such as the Energy Security grand challenge, through its potential to develop a skills base and stimulate interest and desire among young people to take part in science and technology.

This project will position our country as a leader in Space Weather for the African continent, allowing for the development of projects that will create parallel initiatives between different African countries, and provide us with a leading focus area for joint collaborations.

"There is already a possible Space Weather satellite collaboration between India, Brazil and South Africa, which will proceed in the context of the IBSA Space Weather satellite", the Minister said.

"We are working closely with African Space weather scientists who will contribute data to us and in return we will provide space weather information which will assist them with their research," Lee-Anne McKinnell said. "The data that we will produce from their input and what comes out of our centre will help us with global space weather conditions. The other 12 regional warning centres come together to present data covering their area and we are working to do that for Africa." [SARL News]

2011 SARL Contest Manual Now Available on the Web

The 2011 SARL Contest Manual is now available on the web. To download the manual, which is in PDF format, go to the contest section of the web or click on the link on SARL TODAY on the home page. The manual previously known as the blue book has been completely revised and upgraded and is a must have for anyone planning to participate in contests. It is yet another free service for radio amateurs from the SARL. [SARL News]

2011 SARL Diary of Events

The 2011 SARL Diary of Events is available on the SARL web site as well as in the files section of the HF Happenings web site. It is suggested that after downloading the PDF document, all the odd pages are printed, turned over and all the even pages are printed and then stapled. You then have a nice calendar for your radio shack. This is also a free service for radio amateurs from the SARL.

Clubs, who would like to add their club calendar to the document and distribute it amongst their club members, can obtain the original document in MS Publisher format from zs4bs@netactive.co.za.

December

1 World Aids Day; Closing date
SARL Club logs
2 Hanukkah
4/5 ARRL 160 metre contest
5 PEARS HF contest
6 Closing date SARL Field Day
logs
7 Muharram
10 Schools close; Int. Human
Rights Day - Namibia
11/12 ARRL 10 metre contest
16 Day of Reconciliation
21 Summer Solstice; closing date
CQ WW DX CW logs
25 Christmas Day
26 Family Day
27 Public Holiday
31 Closing CQ DX Marathon;
Closing date PEARS HF logs

January 2011

1 New Years Day, Start of the
2011 CQ DX Marathon
1/2 ARRL RTTY Roundup
8/9 ARRL RTTY Roundup
9 DARC 10-Metre Contest
12 Inland Schools open
15 Hunting Lions in the Air
19 Coastal Schools open
20 Closing date for applications
for May 2011 RAE bursaries
21 to 23 Port Elizabeth Amateur
Radio Society National VHF/UHF
Contest
22 Summer QRP Sprint
22/23 BARTG RTTY Sprint
26 SARL 80 m Club Contest, SSB
29 PIC Course, Gauteng
28 to 30 CQ 160-Metre CW Con-
test; UBA DX SSB Contest
30 Closing date for motions for
the 2011 SARL AGM; Closing
date for phase 1 of the con-
struction competition

A Very Blessed Christmas, Happy Channukah or Happy Holidays to you and your loved ones!





If you do not get a visit from Santa Claus, here is the reason why!

Snippets from the ARRL Contest Update

With the deletion of the old PJ entities and the addition of the new ones, it is now possible to have worked 400 DXCC countries including all current and deleted entities.

K6ZO is reported to tally 398, but who will be the first to 400? (Thanks, Alan, KØAV, and Bill, NC1L)

Users of the ARRL's Logbook of the World <http://www.arrl.org/logbook-of-the-world> should be aware that a new version of the TQSL software, version 1.13, has been released. Check the LOTW Web page for more information. (Thanks, Dick AA5VU)

Finding your local DXCC Card Checker <http://www.arrl.org/dxcc-card-checker-search> has been updated with an online search function. To find your local checker open this link and for USA click 'State' and for non-USA click 'Country'. For USA only, you can narrow your search within your state to Zip Code and distance from your zip code by noting this information in the boxes shown. Remember that DXCC card checkers can also certify QSLs for WAS, VUCC and WAC. (Thanks, Bill NC1L)

Bob, N6TV, reports cleaning up some major bugs in the Cabrillo Statistics for Windows (CBSW) <http://www.kkn.net/~n6tv/cbs> rate sheet generator, originally written by Ken, K5KA, (SK), to allow it to work well with the latest versions of CTY.DAT. "It's a simple Windows command line tool. Type CBSW and enter the name of your Cabrillo file and the name of the output file. You get a nice rate sheet in text format suitable for posting to 3830, and a breakdown of stations worked in each country or section, plus some other statistics." N2IC recompiled the Linux version and that has been updated, too.

How many XE stations were active for the recent ARRL 10 Metre contest featuring XE state multipliers? Ramon, XE1KK, reports after receiving log information from more than 30 stations, "The results are surprisingly good: nearly 100 XEs and 26 of 32 Mexican States were on the air...you can see the preliminary report <http://www.dxze.org/arrl10m/xes-arrl-10-1.pdf> and we will prepare a detailed report that may take longer to generate and will be used to promote participation." Ramon also reports that, "it was a big "fiesta" down here and even the stations that made a few contacts are reporting their numbers enthusiastically. A good beginning!"

Operating Tip - "There is a 100% chance they will never call me if I don't keep calling CQ." (Thanks, Andy, N2NT)

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African DX

Tanzania, 5I/5H, (Update). Igor, UA3DJY, is now active again as 5H3ACR until the end of December. He will try to be active on all bands using CW and SSB. QSL via RK3AOL. Look for him to also be active as 5I3A from the DIT Communications club station in Dar Es Salaam.

Senegal, 6W7. Francis, F6BLP, will once again be active as 6W7SK between 8 and 21 January. Activity will be holiday style using the same station as last time (IC-7000 into G5RV antenna) operating mainly CW. QSL via F6BLP, direct or by the Bureau. Logs will be uploaded to LoTW and eQSL. For more detail, logs and pictures of his last operation, visit <http://www.f6blp.org/index.php?langue=uk&contenu=home.php>

Cameroon, TJ. Members of the F6KOP Team and Clipperton DX Club are planning a DXpedition in February 2011. Look for more details to be forthcoming.

Namibia, V5. Ulmar, DK1CE, will once again be active as V5/DK1CE between 26 December and 6 January. Activity will be on 160 - 10 metres CW only. QSL via the home call sign by the Bureau or direct via DH3WO.

Central African Republic, TL. Look for Christian, (ex-TZ9A and 5U5U) as TLOA staying until late December or early 2011 from the capital Bangui. His rig is an IC-746 and 7-element beam for six bands. QSL only direct to Christian Saint-Arroman, Chemin de Mousteguy, 64990 Urcuit, France.

9Q500N QSL Status. Theo, ON4ATW, reports, "Next week or so we have a team meeting to discuss our QSL policy. We start handling the direct QSLs as soon as possible then the Bureau cards and third we will upload the log to LoTW. The upload to LoTW will be much sooner than previously stated on our website. Our goal is to please all contacted stations with a confirmation in a timely manner. Cards still have to be designed and printed but we hope to start sending QSLs shortly after the New Year. Most probable LoTW will be available sometime in February."

African Islands on the Air

Madagascar, 5R8. Paolo, IK2QPR, will be active as 5R8PR from Nosy Be (AF-057) between 17 and 25 January. Activity will be holiday style on 40 - 10 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via his home call sign.

Madagascar, 5R8. Operators Andy, SM1IRS, Al, SM4HAK, and Eric, SM1ALH, will be active as 5R8HL from Madagascar (AF-013) and Nosy Be (AF-057) between 17 January and 4 February. Activity will be on the 80 - 10 metres using CW and SSB. QSL via SM1ALH.

Mauritius Island, 3B8. Jacques F6HMJ will be 3B8/F6HMJ from Mauritius Island (IOTA AF-049, WLOTA 0595) between 5 January and 21 February 2011, except from 11 - 20 January when he will go to Rodriguez Island (IOTA AF-017, WLOTA 4265, WFF 3BFF-004) as 3B9/F6HMJ. He will be active on all bands on CW, SSB and maybe RTTY. QSL via F6HMJ.

Contest Calendar

A Very Blessed Christmas, Happy Channukah or Happy Holidays to you and your loved ones!





This week's contests compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 20 to 27 December 2010.

Lighthouse Christmas Lights QSO Party
00:01 UTC 18 December to 23:59 UTC 2

January

Mode: Any

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 m

Classes: (none)

Exchange: Members: Member no, name and state, province or country; Non-Members: Serial no, name and state, province or country; Lighthouse/Lightship: ARHLS no, name and state, province or country

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO; 2 additional points per QSO with member; 3 additional points per QSO with lighthouse/lightship

Bonus: x2 multiplier for all points if participant activated a lighthouse/lightship

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 31 January 2011

E-mail logs to: (none)

Mail logs to: Dave Ruch, NFOJ, PO Box 20696, Bloomington, MN 55420-0696, USA

Find rules at:

<http://arlhs.com/LCL-2010-guidelines.html>

Run for the Bacon QRP Contest

02:00 - 04:00 UTC 20 December

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 m

Classes: Single Band; All Band

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, state, province or country and member no or power

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with non-member; 3 points per QSO with member on same continent; 5 points per QSO with member on different continent

Multipliers: Each state, province or country once

Multiply mults by 2 if >50 members worked
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: December 26, 2010

E-mail logs to: (none)

Upload log at:

<http://www.fqgrp.com/autolog.php>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

<http://www.fqgrp.com/fqgrpun.php>

SKCC Sprint

00:00 - 02:00 UTC 22 December

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 m

Classes: (none)

Exchange: RST, name, state, province or country and SKCC no or power

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO; Bonus Points: 5 points per Centurion member QSO per band;

Bonus Points: 10 points per Tribune member

QSO per band; Bonus Points: 25 points per QSO with SKCC club call (K9SKC) per band

Multipliers: Each state, province or country once

Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points x total mults) and bonus points

Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 24 December 2010

E-mail log summary to: (none)

Post log summary at:

<http://www.skccgroup.com/sprint/sks/sks-submit.html>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

<http://www.skccgroup.com/sprint/sks/>

QRP Fox Hunt

02:00 - 03:30 UTC 22 December

Mode: CW

Bands: 80 m Only

Classes: Single Op - Fox or Hound

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and power output

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

A Very Blessed Christmas, Happy Channukah or Happy Holidays to you and your loved ones!





Submit logs by: 03:30 UTC 23 December 2010

E-mail logs to: (see rules)

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/winter_rules.htm

QRP Fox Hunt

02:00 - 03:30 UTC 24 December

Mode: CW

Bands: 40 m Only

Classes: Single Op - Fox or Hound

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST and state, province or country and name and power output

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 03:30 UTC 25 December 2010

E-mail logs to: (see rules)

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/winter_rules.htm

NCCC Sprint

03:00 - 04:00 UTC 24 December

Mode: (see rules)

Bands: (see rules)

Classes: (none)

Exchange: (see rules)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 26 December 2010

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at:

<http://www.hornucopia.com/3830score/>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

<http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html>

RAEM Contest

00:00 - 11:59 UTC 26 December

Mode: CW

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 m

Classes: Single Op All Band (Low/High); Single Op Single Band; Multi-Single; SWL

Exchange: Serial No and latitude (degs only) and longitude (degs only) N=North, S=South, W=West, O=East (e.g. 57N 85O)

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 50 points and 1 point for every degree difference in geo location, both latitude and longitude; QSO with Polar station:

100 points additional; QSO with RAEM Memorial Station: 300 points additional

Multipliers: Polar stations multiply total QSO points by 1.1

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 25 January 2011

E-mail logs to: raem[at]srr[dot]ru

Mail logs to: Alex Pashkov, PO Box 177, Novosibirsk 630032, Russia

Find rules at:

http://raem.qrz.ru/contest/raem_2010/rules_eng_2010.php

DARC Christmas Contest

08:30 UTC-10:59 UTC 26 December

Mode: CW, SSB

Bands: 80 and 40 m

Classes: Single Op Mixed - DL - Low or High; Single Op Mixed - non-DL; Single Op CW - DL - Low or High; Single Op CW - non-DL

Max operating hours: 2,5 hours

Max power: HP: >100 W; LP: <=100 W

Exchange: DL: RS(T) and DOK (or Special Station abbreviation); non-DL: RS(T) and QSO No

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point

Multipliers: DOK/Special Stations, once per band; Prefixes, once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x (total DOK/Special Station mults and total prefix mults)

Submit logs by: 10 January 2011

E-mail logs to: xmas[at]dxhf[dot]darc[dot]de

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

<http://www.darc.de/referate/dx/contest/xmas/en/rules/>

A Very Blessed Christmas, Happy Channukah or Happy Holidays to you and your loved ones!





Next Week's Contests

Lighthouse Christmas Lights QSO Party, 00:01 UTC 18 December to 23:59 UTC 2 January
QRP Fox Hunt, 02:00 - 03:30 UTC 29 December
QRP Fox Hunt, 02:00 - 03:30 UTC 31 December
AGB New Year Snowball Contest, 00:00 - 01:00 UTC 1 January
AGCW Happy New Year Contest, 09:00 - 12:00 UTC 1 January
AGCW VHF/UHF Contest, 14:00 - 16:59 UTC 1 January (144); 17:00 - 17:59 UTC,
Jan 1 (432)
Original QRP Contest, 15:00 UTC 1 January to 15:00 UTC 2 January
ARS Spartan Sprint, 02:00 - 04:00 UTC 4 January

History This Week

A look back at events that made history this week - compiled by the Summerland Amateur Radio Club of Lismore, NSW. The week starting Monday 20 December 2010.

1741 - Astronomer Anders Celcius introduces the Centigrade temperature scale
1758 - Halley's Comet 1st sighted by Johann Georg Palitzsch during its return
1846 - First surgery using anaesthesia, Dr. Liston amputates a leg in a London hospital
1879 - Edison demonstrates his incandescent light at Menlo Park, NJ, USA
1895 - WC Roentgen, Germany, takes the first x-ray photo of a woman's hands
1900 - Fessenden is claimed to be the first to transmit the sound of the human voice without wires
1906 - First Lifesaving Reel demonstrated at Bondi Beach, Sydney, Australia
1906 - Fessenden transmits voice and music on the Alexanderson alternator
1947 - The Transistor invented at the Bell Telephone Laboratories. USA

Items used with acknowledgement to The ARRL Letter, Amateur Radio Newslite, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL Bulletin, ARRL DX News, WIA-News, the RSGB News, Southgate ARC and Pete's DX Newsdesk.

Newsletter editors are most welcome to use material from HF Happenings, just remember to acknowledge the source (which could be any one of the names mentioned above). HF Happenings can be provided in MS Word format.

"The Night before Christmas," Amateur Radio-Style

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the town,
The snowstorm was raging, the phone lines were down;
The wind it did howl, the tree limbs did crack,
I hope that St. Nick isn't forced to turn back.
The wife making cookies, the kids making noise,
While away in the shack, by my rig I was poised.
The finals were glowing, the mike gain was set,
I was chasing DX to see what I could get.
The bands were all empty, the frequencies clear,
Except one lone station that sounded quite near.

A Very Blessed Christmas, Happy Channukah or Happy Holidays to you and your loved ones!





He was calling CQ and my interest did pique,
When he ended transmission with the words,
"Old St. Nick".

I answered back quickly, I used great dispatch,
If this were St. Nicholas, good God, what a catch!
We exchanged information, it was really quite graphic,
Then he came back and said,
"I've emergency traffic!"
His reindeer were tired, his elves in a grump,
If he didn't land soon, then his sleigh he would dump.

I thought very carefully, I thought very hard,
Then I gave him directions to my snow covered yard.
As he flew past my window, his hair like a mane,
He reined in his chargers and called them by name:
"Whoa, Anode! Whoa, Cathode! Whoa, Zener! Whoa, Diode!
Stop, Heater! Stop, Grid leak! Stop, Bias! Stop, Triode!
You're flying too low! you're flying too fast!
Look out, you dumb reindeer, his antenna mast!"
So into the backyard the reindeer did drop,
St. Nick, the elves, and the sleigh went kerplop!

Then at the back door, I heard this loud knocking,
"Open up in there, or I won't fill your stocking!"
As I turned off the light and was leaving the shack,
Into the house Saint Nicholas came from the back--
His two-meter rig held to his hip with a strap,
"Hams do it in the shack" on the front of his cap.
The sack that he carried made his aged brow furrow,
And he handed me a card that read,
"QSL Via Bureau".

His clothes were all sooty, from his shoes to his vest;
I felt like a novice taking his test.
His fingers were calloused and from what I could tell,
This came from a straight key that I'll bet he used well.
I offered him coffee, I offered him smokes,
I tried easing the tension by telling ham jokes.
Then he nodded his head and raised up his thumb,
He smiled like an Elmer, did I ever feel dumb.
He grabbed up his sack and went straight for the tree,
And placed in it a large present for me.

When he finished his work, he stood up, took a bow,
Then out the back door to his team he did plow.
But I heard him exclaim as he flew o'er the land,
"Beware the FCC, friend, we were both out of band!"
Merry Christmas from my house to yours!

A Very Blessed Christmas, Happy Channukah or Happy Holidays to you and your loved ones!





A Christmas Poem

'Twas the night before Christmas and all through the shack
The rig was turned off and the mike cord lay slack.
The antenna rotor had made its last turn,
The tubes in the linear have long ceased to burn.
I sat there relaxing and took off my specs,
Preparing to daydream of armchair DX,
When suddenly outside I heard such a sound,
I dashed out the door to see what was around.

The moon shone down brightly and lighted the night-
For sure, propagation for the low bands was right.
I peered towards the roof where I heard all the racket,
And there was some guy in a red, fur-trimmed jacket.
I stood there perplexed in a manner quite giddy.
Just who was this stranger - di di dah dah di dit ?
He looked very much like an FCC guy,
Who'd come to check up on some bad TVI.
I shouted to him, "OM ! QRZ ?"
" Hey you by the chimney all dressed up in red!"
I suddenly knew when I heard sleigh bells jingle,
The guy on the rooftop was jolly Kris Kringle.

He had a big sack full of amateur gear,
Which was a big load for his prancing reindeer.
Transmitters, receivers, for cabinets and racks,
Some meters and scopes and a lot of co-ax.
He said not a word 'cause he'd finished his work
He picked up his sack, then he turned with a jerk.
As he leaped to his sleigh, he shouted with glee,
And I knew in a moment he'd be QRT.
I heard him transmit as he flew o'er the trees
"Merry Christmas to all, and to all seventy-three."

One Ham's Night Before Christmas

By VE3AJR

'Twas the night before Christmas when all through the house
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse,
The rig was tuned up with the greatest of care
In hopes that the station I sought would be there.
My hubby was nestled all snug in his bed
But visions of rare DX danced through my head.
When out of the speaker there came such a splatter
I sprang to the dial to see what was the matter.

Away to the Collins I flew like a flash

A Very Blessed Christmas, Happy Channukah or Happy Holidays to you and your loved ones!





And threw in the filter to cut down the hash.
With both gains turned back as far as they'd go,
I waited to see if his call I would know.
When what to my wondering ear should appear
But "MC2U, Mobile", solid and clear.
What a jolly old signal! I zeroed him quick
But I felt in my heart that it must be a trick.

In the many long years I had been in the game
I have ne'er worked a station with such an odd name.
I had contacted Danzig and Paris - Bombay
And some little village in Paraguay.
The QSL cards fairly covered the wall,
But MC2U would be the rarest of all.
At last he stopped calling, 'twas time to let fly.
If I messed this one up, I was sure I would die.
With quivering lips and shaking knees too,
I reached out my hand and the plate switch I threw.

And then, in a twinkling, I heard overhead
A racket, enough to awaken the dead.
My plate current jumped and the meters swung round,
And down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound.
He was dressed all in fur from his head to his foot
And his clothes were all covered with tarnish and soot.
A stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth
And something encircled his head like a wreath.
It circled his chest and his little round belly
Like a meat-ball surrounded by vermicelli.

It seemed rather strange, this peculiar attire.
Oh no! Could it be? My antenna wire!!!
He held up a feeder, the jolly old elf,
And we laughed till we cried, old St. Nick and myself.
And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose.
As I watched from the window, he went straight to work,
And, in no time at all, he turned with a jerk.
And there on the roof, standing sturdy and tall
Was a beautiful beam, with rotator and all!

As my eyes filled with tears that longed to be shed,
He peeked in the window and waggled his head.
"Don't thank me, my sweet, it's the least I can do

'Twas an Amateur Christmas

By Jack Wright, KC4ZEK

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the night,
We Amateurs sent messages, with the speed of light.

A Very Blessed Christmas, Happy Channukah or Happy Holidays to you and your loved ones!





The stockings were hung by the ham rigs with care,
In hopes a new dual-bander, soon would be there.

And Ma with her HT, and I with my set,
Had just settled down for a long Winter's net.

Here and there are the books that we need,
Books that we're crazy if we don't read.

Books equal to motherhood, and apple pie,
Like Uncle Wayne, they Never Say Die!

When out in the street there arose such a clatter,
I sprang to the window to see what was the matter.

When what to my wondering eyes should see,
But a plain gray van, with a license plate: "FCC".

With a little old driver so lively and quick,
I knew as my heart sank, it was not St. Nick.

He knocked at the door, no chimney to help,
Said "I'm from the government, I'll have those cookies and milk."

Now I thought to myself, 'What a sticky wicket',
With laser sharp eyes he was examining my 'ticket'.

He tested the radios, one by one,
I held my breath, and tried not to run.

Now Yaesu, now Kenwood, now Ten-Tec and Icom,
On Comet, on Cushcraft, on Azden and Den-Tron,

To the top of the tower, to the end of the beam,
Now dash away, dash away, signals SO CLEAN!

After testing my setup, and laughing so gay,
Not "HUMBUG" said he, but "Your rigs are OK".

Then he was away like a flash, no question or fee,
By then, he was just like Santa Claus to me.

And..I heard him exclaim 'ere he drove out of sight,
"73's TO ALL, AND TO ALL A GOOD NIGHT!"

*A Very Blessed Christmas, Happy Channukah or Happy Holidays to you and your
loved ones!*

